Medicare

Pays for Flu Shots

- Why you need flu shots.
- When and where to get flu shots.
- What you need to know about your Medicare benefits.

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Medicare Pays for Flu Shots

When you get a flu shot, you do not have to pay the usual Medicare coinsurance or deductible amounts. Medicare pays those amounts, along with an amount for the vaccine and the person who gives you the shot. If the person giving you the shot accepts the Medicare payment as payment in full, there will be no cost to you..

Why Should You Get a Flu Shot?

- Influenza ("flu") is a viral infection that can lead to a much more serious illness like pneumonia or bronchitis. Thousands of people die each year in the United States from the flu or related complications.
- People 65 and over who contract the flu are more likely than younger people to have serious complications like pneumonia. Flu and pneumonia together are the sixth leading cause of death in the United States, and the elderly are especially vulnerable.
- Flu shots can help you protect your friends and family. By protecting yourself, you avoid catching the flu and spreading it to others.
- Even if the case of flu you get does not lead to complications, it can make you very uncomfortable. Flu causes headache, fever, chills, weakness, aching muscles and red, watery eyes.
- The Public Health Service recommends that you get a flu shot every year if you are age 65 or older (even if you are generally healthy).

What About Side Effects From the Flu Shot?

All shots have possible side effects, but they are usually mild. You may have symptoms like swelling or soreness around the injection or you may have a low fever. Sometimes people have a severe reaction to a shot but those cases are rare. You should not get the flu shot if you are allergic to eggs. In any case, ask your doctor if there is any reason to believe that you will have a bad reaction to a flu shot.

Can Flu Shots Give You the Flu?

No. Flu shots cannot give you the flu.

Don't Some People Get Flu Even Though They Got a Flu Shot?

Yes. Flu vaccine cannot totally prevent you from getting the flu. But if you get a flu shot and then you get the flu during the flu season, you should not become as sick as you would have without the shot.

Where Can You Get Flu Shots?

It's easy to get a flu shot. You can get the flu shot at your doctor's office, the health department, or even while you are in the hospital. Medicare will pay for your shot anywhere flu shots are given, if the provider is complying with Medicare rules in your state.

When Should You Get Flu Shots?

You should get a flu shot every year. Even if you have had flu, you need to protect yourself against each year's new type of flu. The best time to get your shot is in the fall—usually beginning in October. But, you may get your shot earlier if it is easier for you to do that.

How Do You Know Your Case of Flu is Becoming Dangerous?

If fever persists, if fever rises after going down, or if a dry cough turns wet, you may have developed pneumonia or some other complication of flu. You should see your doctor if you have any doubt about your recovery from the flu.

Medicare Pays for Pneumonia Shots

The public Health Service recommends that everyone 65 and older get pneumonia shots.

One shot protects you for a lifetime.

If you haven't had one, ask your doctor if you should get one this year when you get your flu shot.

For more information...

on flu, pneumonia, or other aspects of Medicare, you can call toll free 1-800-638-6833.

Medicare Benefits In Brief

The Medicare health insurance program provides comprehensive acute-care coverage for more than 35 million people age 65 and over. The program also serves about four million disabled people and nearly 200,000 people with chronic kidney disease who need dialysis or kidney transplants.

Medicare has two parts: Hospital Insurance (Part A) and Medical Insurance (Part B). Medicare-covered services may be provided through traditional fee-for-service arrangements, or by coordinated care plans, such as HMOs.

If you would like further information, please refer to the Medicare Handbook, available from your local Social Security Office. Or call toll-free 1-800-638-6833.

1993 Medicare Costs

Part A In-Patient Hospital Stay
Deductible: $676
Copayment for Days 61-90: $169/day
After 90 days: $338/day
(for 60 lifetime reserve days)

Part A Skilled Nursing Facility Stay
First 20 Days: No Charge
Days 21-100: $84.50/day

Part B Medical Insurance
Deductible: $100
Part B Premium: $36.60 a month

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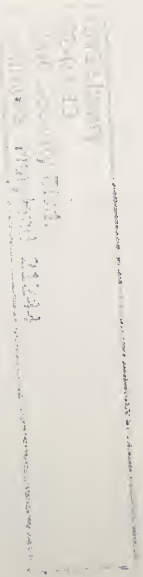

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